WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
Marketing Reports Division
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FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending January 12, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:

Potatoes: Rail movement totals: past week from Idaho 1,580 cars, last year same days 1,052 cars; Idaho for the season 23,082 cars, last season to same date 22,227 cars; U.S. this season to date 181,309 cars, last season to same date 194,295 cars.

Old potatoes on the western wholesale markets have been pushing the ceiling prices for all grades, and demand has been sufficient to keep stocks well cleared on wholesalers' floors.

New stock from Texas has been received on the Seattle market and moved out Friday at $2.83 per 50-pound sack.

Lettuce: Receipts relatively heavy on most of the wholesale markets, and prices have continued to decline. Imperial and Yuma stock on the Seattle market sold mostly at $3.75 to $4.50 per crate of four dozen heads, and on the California markets at $1.50 to $2.00. Shipping point prices at Yuma and Phoenix were mostly $2.00 to $2.50 per crate on iced stock, at Imperial points $1.50 to $1.75 for dry stock of four dozen heads.

U.S. rail movement to date this season totals 17,162 cars, last season same date 15,479 cars. Western Region movement during the week totaled 2,469 cars.

Carrots: Shipments from the Western Region past week equaled 364 cars bunched stock plus 22 cars of topped stock. U.S. shipments to date this season 4,253 cars bunched stock, last season same date 2,911 cars.

Shipping point fob prices at close of the week, Imperial $3.00, Yuma $2.75 to $3.00 and Phoenix $2.25 to $2.75 per crate of six dozen bunches.

Wholesale prices $1.00 to $1.25 above fob prices.

Apples: Wholesale markets continue with liberal supplies of packed and loose stock at ceiling prices.

Supplies moved to terminal markets in the amount of 1,381 cars during the past week. Seasons total to date 36,428 cars, last season same date 24,632 cars.

Oranges: Again, prices of this commodity remained for the most part at or very near ceiling prices, except for the overly large and undersized stock which fell below the ceiling toward the end of the past week.

Western Region, this past week shipped 1,190 cars, and the U.S. including the Western Region 2,503 cars. Total carlot movement for the season to date 26,511 cars, last year same date 27,214 cars.

(OVER)

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter: WFA February set-aside to be 20 percent, and March 25 percent. Also any non-set-aside amounts which may be delivered to government agencies during January can be credited against set-aside obligations in February and March.

Production in the Pacific Coast and Mountain states was increased a week ago by about 3 percent over the previous week, but was still 18 percent under the corresponding week last year.

Eggs: Production in the West appears to be definitely on the increase. However, demand continues in excess of available supplies for civilians.

Poultry: Prices at the new ceiling levels. Supplies light with prospects of continued light supplies for the early part of the year. Some increase in feed costs may result in a slight increase in flock culling. Buying pressure at country points is presently preventing movement through the usual channels at distributing points.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS:

Cattle: The Department of Agriculture has estimated the number of cattle on feed as of January 1, 1945 in all the important feeding states to be about 5 percent above that of a year ago. Comparative figures are 4,173,000 head January 1945, 3,967,000 head 1944, and 4,445,000 head in 1943, the last being considered an all time record. The total number, 520,000 head, on feed in the 11 western states this year was 3 percent under that for last year, and down 6 percent in the two important states of Colorado and California. While the number of cattle is smaller, present pasture conditions along Pacific slope have materially improved and resulting feed supplies may increase beef supplies above that previously expected.

Receipts on the four western markets totaled 20,153 head for the past week, up 51 percent above the previous week, and 62.6 percent above Christmas week, both of which were short weeks. However, receipts for the past week on the western markets were 20 percent above receipts for the second week of January 1944. On the twelve principal markets, receipts at the close of the week totaled 205,300 head, a decline of 3.9 percent from the previous week.

Hogs: Sows moved up in price 25 to 50 cents toward the end of the week. Barrows and gilts of support weights continued to press ceiling.

Receipts on the twelve principal markets totaled for the week 401,600 head, 5.5 percent more than for the previous week, but 38 percent under receipts for the same period last year. On the four western markets 16,975 head were received, 71.7 percent increase over the previous week.

Sheep: Receipts past week on the twelve principal markets were 284,000 head, 20.6 percent more than for the previous week, and 5 percent more than for the same week in January 1944. On the four Western Region markets, receipts for the week were 32.7 percent above the previous week, making a total of 17,223 head.

Prices on the western wholesale markets advanced 25 to 50 cents per cwt. for fat lambs and ewes. Top prices for the week on good wooled lambs were $14.00 to $15.75 per cwt.

Wool: Increases in army needs have resulted in additional War Production Board restrictions being placed on production of civilian clothes. 75 percent of the output of trousers, and 45 percent of shirts is frozen for a period of ninety days to cover army orders, and simplifications were made in the army specifications for those garments.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Winter Wheat: The 1943 seeded acreage for harvest in 1944 has been exceeded by 7 percent in the 1944 acreage for harvest in 1945, making a total of 49,589,000 acres, from which a crop of 761,591,000 bushels may be produced.

Western Region prices remained approximately the same as at the close of the previous week.

Rice: Prices pressed ceiling, and dealers and millers of both southern and California rice continued attempts to replenish stocks. There were practically no offerings of rough rice, hence trading was at a standstill.

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